

IN THE CLAIMS

--1-17 (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A polynucleotide suitable for predicting the efficacy of interferon therapy using interferon- $\alpha$  and/or interferon- $\beta$  for treating an individual who suffers from hepatitis C virus, comprising a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

- (at) the polynucleotide of comprising Sequence ID No. 1;
- (bt) a polynucleotide having a nucleic acid sequence that is at least 99.83% identical to Sequence ID No. 1 and having MxA gene promoter activity; and
- (et) a complementary strand of the polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of (at) and (bt).

21. (Previously presented) The polynucleotide of Claim 18, which comprises (at).

3 20. (Previously presented) The polynucleotide of Claim 18, which comprises (bt).

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

4 23. (Previously presented) The polynucleotide of Claim 18, which comprises (et).

5 24. (Previously presented) The polynucleotide of Claim 18, further comprising at least one additional polynucleotide connected to said polynucleotide, the additional polynucleotide being selected from the group consisting of a promoter, an enhancer, an

upstream activation sequence, a silencers, a upstream suppression sequence, an attenuator, a poly A tail, a nucleus transport signal, Kozak sequence, ISRE, a drug resistance factor, a gene of signal peptide, a gene of transmembrane domain, a gene of marker protein, a gene of interferon-responding protein, and a gene of interferon-non-responding protein.

25-45. (Canceled)

*6* 46. (Previously presented) A vector comprising the polynucleotide of Claim 18. *1*

47-61. (Canceled)